

Message Text

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SUBJ: GOT PRESS RELEASE ON ALLEGED MERCENARY THREAT

FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF PRESS RELEASE ISSUED
BY THE GOT IN THE AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 26, 1977 ON ALLEGED
MERCENARY THREATS.

BEGIN QUOTE: FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS TOGO, UNDER THE DIRECTION
OF GENERAL OF THE ARMY GNASSINGBE EYADEMA, HAS KNOWN--BOTH
INSIDE AND OUTSIDE--PEACE AND STABILITY, THE INDISPENSABLE
CONDITIONS OF DEVELOPMENT. THANKS TO THAT PEACE AND STABILITY,
WHICH IS DUE TO THE PATIENT AND UNTIRING EFFORTS OF PRESIDENT
EYADEMA, TOGO HAS DEFINITELY TURNED ITS BACK ON PETTY
POLITICS ("LA POLITIQUE POLTICIENE") IN ORDER TO GAIN
ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE. THAT INDEPENDENCE REQUIRES THE
ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF THE STATES OF THE REGION. ONE CAN
UNDERSTAND, THEREFORE, THE UNRESERVED ATTACHMENT OF OUR GUIDE
AND OF THE TOGOLESE PEOPLE TO REGIONAL ECONOMIC GROUPINGS;
ECOWAS IS AN EXAMPLE.

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HOWEVER, THIS REALISTIC APPROACH GIVES RISE TO ENVY
AND COVETOUSNESS. THUS, OCTOBER 13, 1977 THE PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC WAS INFORMED BY THE AUTHORITIES OF CERTAIN
POWERS OF THE RECRUITMENT OF MERCENARIES IN THEIR COUNTRIES.

THE RECRUITED MERCENARIES WOULD HAVE INTERVENED

AFTE OCTOBER 15 IN ORDER TO OVERTHROW THE REGIME BY THE ASSASSINATION OF...EYADEMA. AS SOON AS HE RECEIVED THIS SERIOUS NEWS, THE CHIEF OF STATE ORDERED IMPORTANT SECURITY MEASURES.

IN LIGHT OF THIS SITUATION THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU AND THE GOVERNMENT MET TODAY UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF...EYADEMA IN ORDER TO EXAMINE THE PARTICULAR SITUATION IN WHICH TOGO FINDS ITSELF AND IN ORDER TO INFORM THE TOGOLESE PEOPLE OF IT.

THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU AND THE GOVERNMENT VIGOROUSLY CONDEMNED CERTAIN EUROPEAN CIRCLES ("MILIEUX") WHICH ACCEPT, FAVOR OR TOLERATE THE RECRUITMENT OF MERCENARIES, MEN WITH NEITHER FAITH NOR LAW, FOR THE PURPOSE OF OVERTHROWING THE REGIMES IN POWER.

ON THIS OCCASION MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU AND THE GOVERNMENT UNDERTOOK TO VERY SINCERELY THANK THE AUTHORITIES OF THESE FRIENDLY POWERS WHOSE VIGILANCE AND FRIENDSHIP PERMITTED TOGO TO COUNTER THIS ODIOS AND CRIMINAL PLOT.

THE MEMBERS...SOLEMNLY CALL THE ATTENTION OF NATIONS DEDICATED TO LIBERTY, PEACE AND JUSTICE TO THE BARBAROUS PRACTICES WHICH UNHAPPILY TEND TO SPREAD IN AFRICA. UNCLASSIFIED

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A FEW YEARS AGO THERE WAS THE CASE OF GUINEA. YESTERDAY, THAT IF THE POPULAR REPUBLIC OF BENIN AND OF ZAIRE, BOTH COWARDLY ATTACKED BY MERCENARIES WHICH WERE COURAGEOUSLY REPULSED BY THE VALIENT PEOPLE OF THESE BROTHER COUNTRIES.

TODAY IT IS TOGO WHICH WAS GOING TO BE THE TARGET OF THESE DESPERADOS IN THE PAY OF IMPERIALIST CIRCLES AND OF THEIR LOCAL FLUNKIES, ENEMIES OF PROGRESS IN AFRICA. THUS, IT APPEARS FROM THE FIRST ANALYSIS THAT THIS COUP WAS AIMED AT PHYSICALLY LIQUIDATING THE PRESIDENT-FOUNDER OF THE RPT IN ORDER TO SPREAD CHAOS AMONG THE POEPL, BUT ALSO AND ABOVE ALL TO PUT IN DOUBT THE POLICY OF PEACE AND STABILITY, SO DEARLY ACQUIRED, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFINITELY COMPROMISING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY.

THE ENTIRE TOGOLEPE PEOPLE MOBILIZED WITH ITS WELL-LOVED GUIDE IN FRONT WILL DEFEND WITH FIRM DETERMINATION EVEN TO THE SUPREME SACRIFICE ITS ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE. THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU AND GOVERNMENT

INVITE ALL RPT MILITANTS TO TIGHTEN THEIR RANKS AROUND THE
PRESIDENT-FOUNDER AND REDOUBLE THEIR VIGILANCE.

THEY ASSURE THE PRESIDENT-FOUNDER OF THEIR UNSWERVING
DEDICATION IN PURSUING THE WORK OF RECONSTRUCTING TOGO
NOUVEAU.

THE TOGOLESE PEOPLE, LOYAL TO THE IDEALS OF THE UN
AND THE OAU, CALL ON THE VIGILANCE OF AFRICANS IN ORDER TO
FRUSTRATE THE DEVILISH MANEUVERS OF THESE IMPERIALIST
CIRCLES. MOREOVER, THE MEMBERS...EXAMINED THE PROBLEM
OF FRONTIER SMUGGLING BETWEEN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND TOGO,
PARTICULARLY ON THE GHANA FRONTIER AS WELL AS THE DAMAGE
CAUSED BY THIS SMUGGLING TO THE ECONOMY AND COMMERCE OF
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OUR COUNTRY. THEY NOTE THE GRAVE DAMAGES AND
DANGERS TO THE TOGOLESE ECONOMY BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE
BLACK MARKET IN CEDIS ON THE FRONTIER WHICH CONTINUES
DESPITE THE MEASURES WHICH HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IN EFFECT. THUS,
IT BECOMES IMPERATIVE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE TOGOLESE
ECONOMY THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAKES THESE MEASURES MORE EFFICIENT.
THE POLITICAL BUREAU AND THE GOVERNMENT HAVE DECIDED AS A
RESULT TO REENFORCE HENCEFORTH THE MEASURES OF CONTROL FOR THE
PURPOSE OF FIGHTING ENERGETICALLY AGAINST THESE ILLEGAL
COMMERCIAL AND MONEY CHANGING PRACTICES.

THUS, ANYONE WHO IS CONVICTED OF SMUGGLING OR
OF COMPLICITY WITH SMUGGLERS WILL BE SUBJECT TO PUNISHMENT
RANGING FROM THE PURE AND SIMPLE CONFISCATION OF MONEY AND
MERCHANDISE TO IMPRISONMENT. THE POLITICAL BUREAU AND THE GOVERNMENT
COUNT ON THE VIGILANCE AND COLLABORATION OF RPT
MILITANTS TO STRANGLE THIS FORM OF SABOTAGE OF THE NATIONAL
ECONOMY. END QUOTE. YOUNG

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